IN THE SPECIFICATION

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- A method for abstracting physical devices in a system is disclosed in an additional embodiment of the present invention. The method includes receiving device data from a physical device computer code segment. The physical device computer code segment is capable of receiving the device data from the physical device. Access to the device data is then provided to an application program. In one aspect, the device data can include the current state of the physical device and event data indicating whether the current state of the physical device has changed. In one aspect, access to the device data can be provided using an application programming interface (API). For example, the API can provide access to device data from a plurality of physical devices, wherein ~~the~~ each[[?]] physical device provides data for the same number of variables, such as, when all the physical devices are one-dimensional controls, as described below. --